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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918

May 9, 2022

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

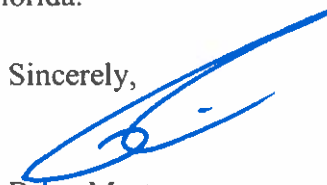
The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I write to support the inclusion of my Environmental Infrastructure request, the Northern Estuaries Water Quality Improvements Project, in the Water Resources and Development Act 2022 reauthorization. This project makes city and county governments located in Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Polk, Hardee, Manatee, DeSoto, Sarasota, Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, and Highlands Counties in Florida eligible for funding for water quality improvement projects. The congressional districts that encompass these counties are FL-06, FL-08, FL-16, FL-17, FL-18, FL-19, FL-20, and FL-25. The Northern Estuaries Water Quality Improvements Project would authorize \$100 million for cities and counties in these districts, located inside the designated area for the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Plan and the Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership, to use for planning, design, and construction of projects to improve water quality. A major cause of the deterioration of the Indian River Lagoon, Lake Okeechobee, the St. Lucie River Estuary, the Caloosahatchee River Estuary, and Charlotte Harbor is inadequate water infrastructure. From leaky and aged septic tanks to poor stormwater drainage infrastructure, local governments in Florida have more water infrastructure issues to address than resources. Improving water infrastructure in South Florida will protect ecosystems and drinking water for the millions that call the region home.

I certify that neither me nor my immediate family have any financial interest in this project. Thank you for your careful consideration, and I look forward to working with you both to improve the water quality of South Florida.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast
Member of Congress